REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	29 January 2001
Name of applicant/court:	The Film and Video Labelling Body Inc.
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	New Vision Film Distributors
Title of Publication:	Une Liason Pornographique
Other Known Titles:	A Pornographic Affair
Director:	Frédéric Fonteyne
Producer:	Patrick Quinet
Publisher:	Not Applicable
Author:	Not Applicable
Format:	Video Recording VHS/PAL
Country of Origin:	France, Belgium
Language:	French with English subtitles

Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Une Liason Pornographique	Running time:	76.16
Trailers:	Nil	Running time:	
		Total Running time:	76.16

Excision/Alteration: No.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

Display Conditions:

Nil.

Descriptive Note:

Contains sex scenes.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: 25 January 2001

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The classification of the publication *Une Liaison Pornographique*, also known as *A Pornographic Affair*, has been reconsidered and is now altered. *Une Liaison Pornographique* is now classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

The publication was submitted to the Office of Film and Literature Classification for reconsideration of its original classification. It had previously been classified as "Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years and the publication is used for the purpose of screening at the New Zealand Film Festival 2000". This decision was registered on 28 June 2000. In granting leave for the classification of the publication to be reconsidered, and in determining that classification, consideration has been given to the potential for a wider audience for the publication and the absence of evidence of likelihood of injury to the public good that might result from exposure to this wider audience.

The main issue in the classification decision is the feature's treatment of matters of sex. The storyline traces the course of an unusual relationship that begins as purely sexual but develops into friendship and then into love. Despite an absence of explicit visual or verbal material, the strength of the sexual scenes and the prevalence of sexual themes and references renders the feature unsuitable for young viewers. The availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good unless it is restricted to an audience of mature teenagers and adults.

Considerations under s3(1) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 have been weighed against the right to freedom of expression set out in s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. The restriction is reasonable, justified, and in accordance with the law. The limitation on the availability of the publication is the minimum that can be applied in order to prevent the likelihood of injury to the public good.

OFLC Ref: 2205